

**GENERIC NAME:**

**OXYTOCIN**

112.23

**BRAND NAME:** Pitocin, Syntocin

**CLASS:** pituitary hormone, polypeptide, uterine stimulant

**Mechanism of Action:**

Binds to oxytocin receptor sites on surface of uterine smooth muscles: increases force and frequency of uterine contractions

**Indications and Field Use:**

Postpartum hemorrhage due to uterine atony

**Contraindications:**

Hypersensitivity

**Adverse Reactions:**

**CV:** Shock, tachycardia, dysrhythmias

**Resp:** Anaphylaxis

**GI:** Nausea and vomiting

**GU:** If used prior to delivery, can cause uterine rupture, uterine spasm, lacerations, and fetal damage.

**Other:** Clotting disorders, electrolyte disturbances

**NOTES ON ADMINISTRATION**

**Incompatibilities/Drug Interactions:**

None in prehospital arena

**Adult Dosage:**

**Postpartum hemorrhage:** 10-20 USP units added to 1000 cc NS or LR and run at a rate necessary to control uterine atony or 10 USP units may be given IM after delivery of placenta.

**Pediatric Dosage:**

Not applicable

**Routes of Administration:**

IV infusion, IM

IV infusion on interfacility transfers requires infusion pump

**Onset of Action:**

Seconds

**Peak Effects:**

Variable

**Duration of Action:**

1 hour after discontinued

**Dosage Forms/Packaging:**

10 USP units/1 ml ampule or tubex

**Arizona Drug Box Supply Range:**

PARAMEDIC: 1 - 2 units

INTERMEDIATE: 1 - 2 units

**Special Notes:**

- > Post partum hemorrhage is defined as blood loss in excess of 500 ml at delivery and during the first 24 hours after delivery. It should be remembered that all blood seen at delivery is the mother's unless there is a spill of cord blood or trauma to the placenta.
- > Do not use if solution is discolored or contains a precipitate.
- > In addition to oxytocin, fundal massage is also indicated to remove clot formation and stimulate uterine contraction.
- > IV fluids are necessary to correct hypovolemia; if post partum hemorrhage is due to other causes such as vaginal or cervical lacerations or retained placental fragments, oxytocin and fundal massage will not be effective.
- > Oxytocin is an optional drug.